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general way, the lead of Mr. Horace White, there is little but praise to be accorded. They are characterized throughout by common-sense and by sound views.

WILLIAM WARRAND CARLILE.

BYFLEET, SURREY,  
England.

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*Poverty.* By ROBERT HUNTER. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1904. 8vo, pp. ix + 382.

There is much in Mr. Hunter's book at which the scholar will cavil. It is a natural temptation for an author upon social subjects to dress his writings in a scholarly garb and find in statistics the confirmation of his personal observations. The material of this kind at Mr. Hunter's disposal is very scanty and of a very local nature, but he succumbs to the temptation to parade it. And this not always successfully. When the author estimates the number of workmen in a typical factory state that fall below the poverty line, he finds the average rate of wages from the U. S. census of 1900. According to the census, the income of 11 per cent. of male workers over sixteen years of age in a prominent industry cannot be more than \$300 a year. Even this low average is cut down by nearly a fourth when the author uses the results of an investigation of average non-employment made by the state census. Mr. Hunter sets the poverty line at a family income of \$460, and finds the results in this particular case very deplorable. If one, however, takes the family income as a unit, it may be possible that the combined individual earnings of \$225 will bring the family income up to, if not above, the \$460 which the author estimates as barely sufficient to keep a family of five above actual poverty. Mr. Hunter himself has no high opinion of the value of past censuses for furnishing data elucidating the problem of poverty, and many statisticians have even a lower one. It would have been better to omit all reference to statistics that can leave only a shaking confidence, when they are forced to interpret conditions with which they do not directly deal. It may be that tables and schedules borrowed from whatever sources they may be found give the appearance of the authority of print. But they do not convince the skeptic, and they leave the impression upon others that something has been done to investigate the problem of poverty in America, when no one knows better than Mr. Hunter that nothing serious has been undertaken in that line.

It is the story of personal experiences, which the author tells with feeling and power, that gives this book its value. It is the strong plea that there is a problem of poverty in this country, and that the problem is large enough and grave enough to demand the most serious attention of both scholars and the public, that is going to impress itself upon the reader. The author has done more than to call attention to the problem. He has defined it in adequate terms. His distinction between the two classes of poor and paupers not only relegates to its proper sphere our literature on charity, but shows how closely connected with our whole system of industry is the problem of poverty.

[The poor] are struggling fiercely against want. Day after day, year after year, they toil with marvelous persistency and perseverance. Obnoxious as the simile is, they work from day until nightfall, or from sunset until dawn, like galley slaves under the sting of want. . . . Heavy, brooding men, tired, anxious women, thinly dressed, unkempt little girls, and frail, joyless little lads. . . . The wages are so low that the men alone often cannot support their families, and mothers with babies toil in order to add to the income. They give up all thought of a joyful living, probably in the hope that by tremendous exertion they can overcome their poverty, but they gain while at work only enough to keep their bodies alive. (Pp. 323-25.)

The next step is contented pauperism.

The feeling that the problem of poverty confines itself to the problem of how to deal with and feed the vagrant and the pauper, or to assist "the deserving poor," admits a great deal of comfort because of the opportunity it gives to some of our best virtues. We even point with justifiable pride, in our most advanced communities, to societies of organized charities. The author does his best to deprive us of this feeling. He does not deny that poverty often comes as the result of individual weakness. He has been too long in active connection with charity work not to realize that fact. But he points out how inextricably poverty is interwoven with all social and economic institutions. The field of poverty includes nearly the whole of our unskilled working population.

As a matter of fact, it would be useless to deny or ignore the fact that much of our poverty is directly due to a whole series of economic disorders which seem actually to make waste of human life necessary. And, so far as poverty is a result of such deeply seated and fundamental economic disorders, due either to the method by which industry is organized or the present ownership of the means and materials of production, it will, in all probability, find a solution only through struggles between the workers and capitalists. (P. 331.)

Nor is the outlook bright for any improvement on present methods. The author points out several agencies tending to thrust the class hovering above the poverty line, below it. He gives a chapter to the sick, in which he includes accidents in, and unsanitary condition of, many gainful occupations, when no provision is made to relieve the stress upon the families afflicted; and the prevalence of tuberculosis among the poor. The child—its small chance of life and fair development, and as a competitor of the parent in industry—is given a strong chapter. The treatment of the immigrant is thoughtful and deserves careful consideration. As many of the author's views on the immigration question are speculative, and deal with things that might have been, if other things were not as they are, there is room in this chapter for dissenting opinions.

The author has faced a grave problem resolutely. He has stated it in clear terms. He has shown that poverty is more than accidental—is a corollary of existing institutions. He has gathered together the best and most intelligent thought upon the subject. He may be bordering upon the sentimental at times—which is forgivable; he may be twisting ropes of the sand of statistics, and venture theories that he himself may in time desert; but he has written a book which ought to make a deep impression upon the thinking public. Mr. Hunter's book is a landmark in the American literature upon the subject.

S. G. LINDHOLM.

NEW YORK.

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*Mass and Class: A Study of Social Divisions.* By W. J. GHENT.

New York: The Macmillan Co., 1904. 8vo, pp. ix + 260.

In October, 1902, Mr. Ghent published *Our Benevolent Feudalism*. In this book he examined certain prominent phases of contemporary social development—the combination of capital, the rôle played by business magnates, the economic position of farmers and wage-earners, the trend of social legislation, and the attitude toward social problems of the bench, the press, and the pulpit. This examination led him to the conclusion that American society is gradually assuming a feudal form. In the feudalism of the future, Mr. Ghent prophesied that the possessors of great wealth will take the place of the ancient barons, and wage-earners the place of villeins; the professional classes will become virtually dependents upon and supporters of the barons, the active managers of production will become